

Minutes of the South Carolina Board of Dentistry  
Sterilization and Infection Control and CE Hours Committee Meeting  
January 16, 2015  
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 107  
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Committee Members present:

Paul S. Coombs, Jr., D.M.D., Committee Chairman  
Douglas J. Alterman, D.M.D., Board Chairman  
Charles F. Wade, D.M.D., Past Board Member  
Sherie Williams-Barbare, R.D.H.

Committee Member with excused absence:

Elaine A. Murphy, R.D.H.

Staff and others present were:

Kate K. Cox, LLR Administrator  
Thomas Edmonds, DMD  
Lisa Hawsey, Administrative Assistant  
Alex Imgrund, LLR Advice Attorney  
Phil Latham, SCDA  
Lori Paschall, CDA, FADAA  
Jennifer Thompson, Court Reporter

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CALL TO ORDER:

The Sterilization and Infection Control Committee Meeting was held at the Synergy Office Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, in Columbia, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provided to THE STATE NEWSPAPER AND ASSOCIATED PRESS and proper notice also having been posted at the LLR Office Building 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and a quorum having been noted as present, Dr. Coombs, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. A quorum was noted as present. All votes herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

Excused absence was noted for Elaine Murphy, R.D.H.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Dr. Coombs reviewed the meeting Agenda.

**Motion:** Dr. Alterman made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Wade seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summary Review of Committee's Tasks for Research on Sterilization and Infection Control and on the Need for Certain Continuing Education Hours:

Dr. Coombs summarized the Committee's task to look at sterilization and infection control requirements in the Board's statutes and regulations and make sure our personnel are fully trained and will protect the public. He introduced the thought to look into the need for requiring a certain number of the required continuing education hours to be in ethics, recordkeeping and communication. He said that this is an organizational meeting to start looking at what needs there might be.

Comments and Research on Sterilization and Infection Control:

Sterilization and Infection control statutes and regulations were reviewed from research in other states by the staff, ADA, and Committee members. Ms. Paschall brought additional materials to add to the Committee's research and had made a presentation to the full Board in August 2014. Discussion was held on the need for public protection; on the number of states that have this type of legislation already in place; and on proposed legislation. It was pointed out that there is not standard language in the states and many states refer to the CDC guidelines which are updated regularly by that federal agency. The Committee liked the language from Alabama and Mississippi.

Dr. Coombs stated keeping to the CDC guidelines is what is desired and keeping any language in the board's laws as broad as possible. Mr. Imgrund agreed and noted the CDC Guidelines and OSHA guidelines are what are required of anybody practicing in the state of South Carolina treating patients. Discussion followed and Mr. Imgrund stated he will draft language for the Committee to review at its next meeting.

Continuing Education Hours:

Dr. Coombs introduced the thought to look into requiring a certain number of the required continuing education hours to be in ethics, recordkeeping and communication based on complaints in these specific areas from the IRC and complaints. It was discussed that adding additional hours may not be as productive in getting a new regulation passed as requiring adding some of these courses within the required hours. Mr. Imgrund stated he will draft language for this. Dr. Coombs stated the breakout of hours should be on recordkeeping, not ethics or communication.

The role of dental assistants and CE requirements were discussed. Ms. Paschall discussed dental assistants and their role. It was noted that the Board does not regulate or license or register dental assistants; therefore, the Board cannot require CE hours from dental assistants. It was noted after discussion that licensing or registering any new groups will not be addressed at this time.

CE was mentioned again to set out some hours that need to be in infection control as part of the 28 dentistry hours and 14 dental hygiene hours' requirements. Mr. Imgrund stated he will include work on this for the CE hour's language as well.

LEGAL:

Mr. Imgrund discussed law versus policy. He noted the use of simple and direct language will be what he uses. He stated he had some clear language that uses the word "shall" to help with compliance. Ms. Paschall commented on compliance. It was stated by Mr. Imgrund, Dr. Combs and Ms. Paschal that a number of states have good concise language. It was noted that requirements and implementation both need to be mentioned. It was also noted that education will be part of that implementation as CE hours.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Edmonds of SCDA noted their support for legislative changes and SCDA will be the group to lobby for changes in that the Board cannot lobby. There were no more discussion topics.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A meeting date was discussed for a date in April 2015 and to begin at 9:00 a.m. The Chairman will set the date. There were no other announcements.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Dr. Coombs adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate K. Cox  
Administrator